

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference B 12886 JCI	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR99/00492	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 04 March 1999 (04.03.99)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 05 March 1998 (05.03.98)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01N 1/08		
Applicant COMPAGNIE GENERALE DES MATIERES NUCLEAIRES		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 September 1999 (13.09.99)	Date of completion of this report 17 December 1999 (17.12.1999)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FR99/00492

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):

the international application as originally filed.

the description, pages 1-12, as originally filed,
pages _____, filed with the demand,
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.

the claims, Nos. 1-18, as originally filed,
Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____,
Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.

the drawings, sheets/fig 1/7-7/7, as originally filed,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____

the claims, Nos. _____

the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. The invention relates to a device for inspecting, sampling or extracting at an exact point underneath a slab.

Problem: in order to collect or inspect a sample of the contents of a silo which has a ceiling formed by a combined slab and protective cover provided with a single opening which is normally closed, a suitable member mounted on a supporting cable is usually lowered into the silo through the opening in the slab. However, with this system, sampling or inspection can only be carried out directly under the opening. In order to sample or inspect elsewhere, the end of the cable is pushed sideways while being guided by poles inserted obliquely through the opening. This is not very accurate, may be dangerous and generally does not enable the edges of the silo to be reached, said silo often being about ten metres wide.

Solution: the device claimed includes three guide cables located underneath the slab, converging on a spider- or star-shaped guide means with a recessed rim, located underneath the slab, to which said

guide cables are attached, passing through the slab by means of bores at the edges of the silo, and wound around motor-driven winches, and a common winch control system, wherein the guide system is provided with contact surfaces for sliding the supporting cable between the attachment points of the guide cables. This system enables inspections and sampling of the contents of the silo to be carried out at any point inside the silo and the member lowered underneath the slab can thereby be guided with great accuracy.

Prior art: US-A-4 465 418 (D1) describes a domed-roof silo inside which there is a tripod attached to the silo wall, said tripod being provided with three suspension cables whereto is connected the sampling device. The contents of the silo are not located underneath a slab as in the present invention.

The subject matter of Claim 1 is novel and considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).

2. The subject matter of dependent Claims 2 to 18 is novel and considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

1. In compliance with the requirements of PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description should indicate the relevant prior art disclosed in D1 and cite this document.
2. The description should cite the document detailing the prior art which is described on page 1, lines 12-26 (PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii)).